544 Camp

Sam Newman, interview of 12/12/68 Harold Weisberg (His add:6214 Pratt,Pl)

I interviewed Newman in his office in Criminal Sheriff Heid's. While we were talking he excused himself, then returned to say he had spoken to the sheriff, who is also his attorney, and Heid had counselled him to say nothing. Later he told me Heid had told him to say nothing about his having given Newman this advice.

Newman began by saying he had told the DA's office everything he knew. He said he turned over what records he had. However, he conceded that he did not really understand what had been wanted of him and had not been asked some of the questions I asked or told those things I told him. I had pointed out the discrepancies between the FBI and Secret Service accounts of the same information coming from him.

He said that the man who had inquired of space of him was not interested in the CRC former space but in the third floor, which is what Arnesto Rodriguez had told me of himself and his interest. I have written a memo on the Rodriguez interview.

He declined to permit me to tape the interview, which was thereafter abbreviated by Heid's advice, on the ground he might say something other than what he is recorded as having said. I encouraged him to consult with Heid, to understand this has already happened, and that his interest lies in making a complete and accurate record of his present best recollection.

At first he said he did not recall the man he had found in the former CRC room, later described him as a man who looked familiar to him, one who had been there before and who he associated with that office. He described him first as with reddish-brown hair, then as brown, and a Latin type.

He told me that it was not Jack Martin who arranged for the CRC office space but Banister himself. He also said that "Banister told Arcacha what to do". Arcacha was around often after the office space was surrendered. He said there were more payments on the overdue rent. He acknowledged that Grimader had made the payment indicated in the federal-agents' reports, but that prior to this time, there had been another. I suggest this could be indicative of a longer occupancy of the office.

He told me that the mail to the building was deposited at the bottom of the steps and that it was then picked up by the tenants. I asked if he recalled the "Crusada" campaign by Arcacha and Ronnie Caire. He asked me a question, "Know who got the money?" then responded that it went into private pockets. He also said that when he dunned Archaca for rent, Arcacha referred him to a "doctor" in Miami, the head of the organization. He does not recall the name. He also told me that Jack Martin is among those who arranged for the mayor's assistance with the fund-raising campaign or a parade for popular support, I do not recall which.

On the man in the office: he was taller than I (I am 5'9") but

not fat or unusually heavy.

Perhaps without cause, perhaps only from his manner and his slipping out to speak to Heyd, I got the impression that while Newman may not be aware of the significance of some of what he may knew he also knows what some means or suspects that there may be some meaning that will be embarrassing to him.

I showed him the picture of Oswald when arrested in Dallas, in that unusual shirt, with his head slightly downward and from an angle, and Newman said the face was familiar, perhaps he had seen the man around either the Cuban or Banister's office, but when I showed him the New Orleans arrest picture, he said that was Oswald and did not seexm like the same man.

I showed him a picture of Thornley, the one taken by the Tampa paper, because in describing the man he had seen at the office he had indicated a hairline and a furl of hair suggestive of this picture. He said that was not the man..